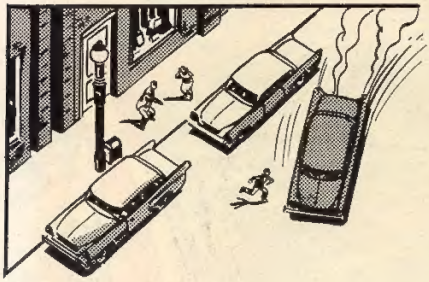
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MAY
NO. 171
WHAT'S KEEPING THE RIDDLER UP? HE TAKES OUR HARDEST KNOCKOUT BLOWS--
HA! HA! HA! HA!
--AND BOUNCES RIGHT BACK, FROM THEM!
Featuring
"REMARKABLE RUSE of the RIDDLER!"

WHAT'S WRONG *with* THESE PICTURES?

(ANSWERS IN LAST PANEL, UPSIDE DOWN)



ANSWERS:

1. SOMETHING IS ***VERY*** WRONG WHEN NOBODY GETS UP TO GIVE A SEAT TO AN OLD MAN, *OR* A WOMAN LOADED DOWN WITH PACKAGES!
2. TRAMPLING OVER FLOWERBEDS AND BUSHES SHOWS DISRESPECT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY!
3. DARTING ACROSS A STREET FROM BETWEEN TWO CARS IS A HAZARD FOR BOTH PEDESTRIAN AND MOTORIST!
4. BEING A LITTERBUG DOESN'T HELP KEEP YOUR CITY CLEAN!
5. IT'S NOT ONLY RUDE TO CROWD AND PUSH—BUT DOWNRIGHT DANGEROUS!

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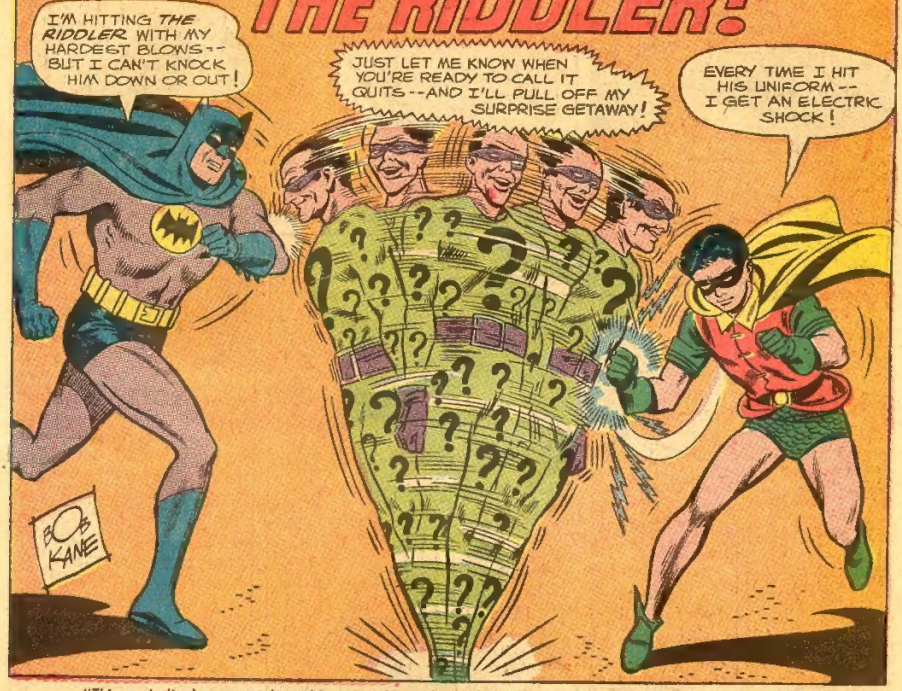
BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

OUT OF THE PAST STEPS A "QUESTIONABLE" FIGURE--A MASTER THIEF WHOSE TRADEMARK IS--A RIDDLE! BECAUSE OF A QUIRK IN HIS NATURE, HE NEVER COMMITS A CRIME WITHOUT FIRST TIPPING OFF *BATMAN*--BY MEANS OF A RIDDLE--WHERE HE INTENDS TO STRIKE! BUT WHILE THE *MASKED MANHUNTER* HAS NO TROUBLE SOLVING THE RIDDLES, HE RUNS INTO *PLENTY* OF TROUBLE WHEN HE TRIES TO CAPTURE HIS ENIGMATIC FOE!

REMARKABLE RUSE of THE RIDDLER!


I'M HITTING *THE RIDDLER* WITH MY HARDEST BLOWS--BUT I CAN'T KNOCK HIM DOWN OR OUT!
JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE READY TO CALL IT QUITS--AND I'LL PULL OFF MY SURPRISE GETAWAY!
EVERY TIME I HIT HIS UNIFORM--I GET AN ELECTRIC SHOCK!
BOB KANE

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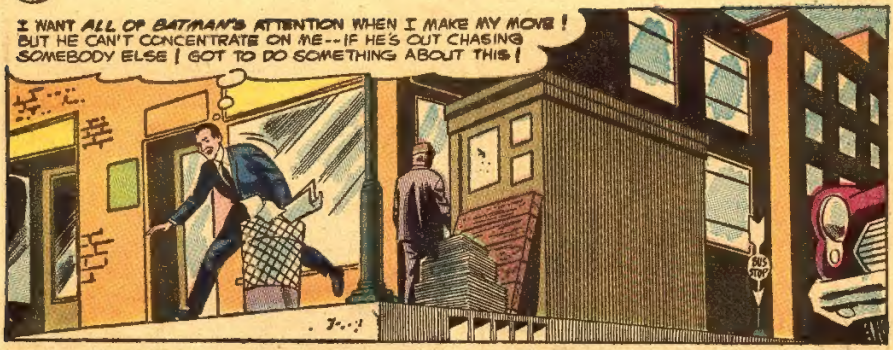
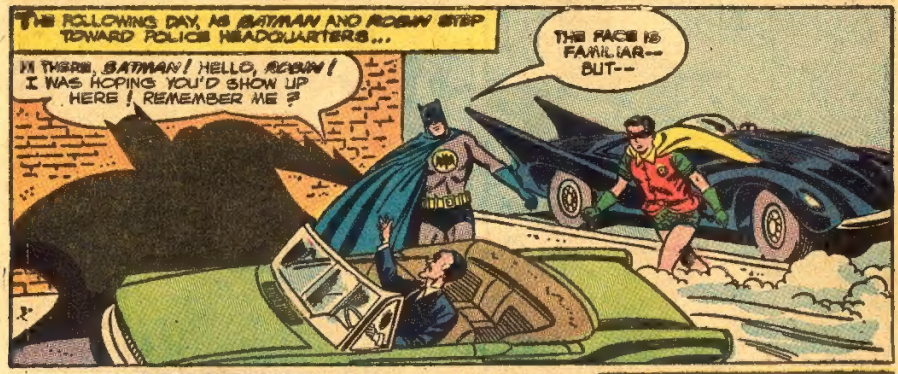
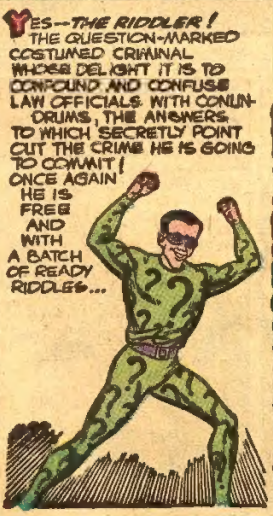
Printed in U.S.A.

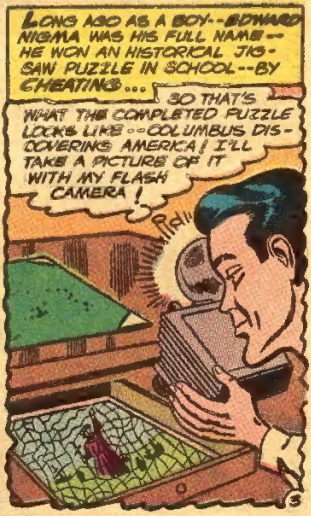
IN THE OFFICE OF THE WARDEN OF STATE PENITENTIARY, AN INMATE KNOWN AS E. NIGMA STANDS ON THE THRESHOLD OF FREEDOM...
--AND HERE'S THE MONEY WE GIVE EVERY RELEASED PRISONER--
THANKS, WARDEN. NOW LET ME GIVE YOU A PRESENT IN EXCHANGE--A RIDDLE!
WHY DO THE CONS IN THIS PRISON CALL IT "FIDDLER'S HOTEL"?
STILL CAN'T RESIST ASKING A RIDDLE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, eh? OKAY... I BITE! WHAT'S THE ANSWER?
UH--UH--I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU NOW! BUT IF I'M UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RETURN TO FIDDLER'S HOTEL-- I'LL TELL YOU THE ANSWER THEN!
SOUNDS AS IF HE INTENDS GOING BACK TO HIS LIFE OF CRIME--WHICH MAKES IT A SURE BET HE'LL BE BACK HERE SOON WITH THE ANSWER TO HIS RIDDLE!
THE FRONT GATE OF THE BIG HOUSE OPENS AND CLOSES BEHIND HIM AS E. NIGMA WALKS AWAY...
EVER SINCE BATMAN SLAPPED ME BEHIND JAIL BARS * I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A CHANGE OF TACTICS FOR OUR RE-MATCH--AND I'M ALL SET TO GO!
* Editor's Note: DETECTIVE COMICS #142, DECEMBER, 1948--"CRIME'S PUZZLE CONTEST!"
REACHING GOTHAM CITY, HIS FIRST STOP IS AT A NEWSSTAND WHERE...
I WANT TO LEARN WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WORLD WHILE I--HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?
OH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THIS!
BATMAN BAFFLED AGAIN BY MOLE-HILL MOB!
MASKED MANHUNTER PROMISES ALL-OUT WAR ON UNDERGROUND ROBBERS WHO USE MANHOLE COVERS TO MAKE GETAWAY!


I WANT ALL OF BATMAN'S ATTENTION WHEN I MAKE MY MOVE! BUT HE CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ME--IF HE'S OUT CHASING SOMEBODY ELSE! GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
BUS STOP


THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STEP TOWARD POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
THERE, BATMAN! HELLO, ROBIN! I WAS HOPING YOU'D SHOW UP HERE! REMEMBER ME?
THE FACE IS FAMILIAR--BUT--

MAYBE YOU DON'T QUITE RECOGNIZE ME BECAUSE I'M OUT OF UNIFORM! LET ME GIVE YOU A HINT--WHAT OCCURS ONCE IN A MINUTE--TWICE IN A MOMENT--BUT NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS?
YOU'RE THE RIDDLER!


YES--THE RIDDLER! THE QUESTION-MARKED COSTUMED CRIMINAL WHOSE DELIGHT IT IS TO COMPOUND AND CONFUSE LAW OFFICIALS WITH CONUNDRUMS, THE ANSWERS TO WHICH SECRETLY POINT OUT THE CRIME HE IS GOING TO COMMIT! ONCE AGAIN HE IS FREE AND WITH A BATCH OF READY RIDDLES...


LONG AGO AS A BOY--EDWARD NIGMA WAS HIS FULL NAME--HE WON AN HISTORICAL JIG-SAW PUZZLE IN SCHOOL--BY CHEATING...
SO THAT'S WHAT THE COMPLETED PUZZLE LOOKS LIKE--COLUMBUS DISCOVERING AMERICA! I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF IT WITH MY FLASH CAMERA!

FROM THAT DAY ON HE CARVED HIMSELF A CRIMINAL CAREER OUT OF PUZZLES AND RIDDLES, BECOMING MORE AND MORE NOTORIOUS UNTIL HE INEVITABLY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!*

*SEE **DETECTIVE COMICS # 140 : "The RIDDLER!"**

AGAIN AND AGAIN HE BATTLED THAT DYNAMIC DUO, EVER CONTRIVING NEW AND MORE DANGEROUS PUZZLE-TRAPS FOR THEM--SUCH AS THE GREAT GLASS MAZE ON THE **GOTHAM CITY AMUSEMENT PIER**...

OUCH! I RAN INTO ANOTHER PANE!

PANES--AND PAINS--ARE ALL YOU'LL GET FOR YOUR TROUBLE!

NOW TO SLIP BACK OUT BY THE SECRET TRAIL I MARKED!

UNTIL AT LAST, HARSH REALITY CAUGHT UP WITH THIS **PRINCE OF PUZZLERS** IN A HALL OF MIRRORS WHEN...

THESE MEMORIES VIVIDLY RETURN TO THE **COWLED CRUSADER** AS HE STARES COLDLY AT HIS FORMER FOE...

SO YOU'RE GOING BACK TO YOUR OLD WAYS AND GIVING ME THE RIDDLE TO YOUR NEXT CRIME?

BAT-MAN--YOU MISJUDGE ME! BELIEVE ME, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! I'VE RE-FORMED!

I DON'T HAVE TO ROB ANY MORE, SO I'M GOING STRAIGHT! NO MORE CRIMES FOR THE **EX-RIDDLER!** TO SHOW YOU HOW SINCERE I AM--I'M GOING TO HELP YOU CATCH THE **MOLEHILL MOB!**

HUH?!

BATMAN REFLECTS A MOMENT ON THE MOLEHILL MOB--GANGSTERS THAT COME OUT OF MANHOLES TO STRIKE SWIFTLY AT THEIR TARGETS--AND CRAWL INTO TO FLEE WITH THEIR LOOT...
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
ONCE INSIDE THOSE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS--THEY'LL GIVE US THE SLIP!
FOR IN THAT SUB-TERRANEAN WORLD BENEATH THE GREAT METROPOLIS THERE ARE MILES AND MILES OF TUNNELS AND STRANGE BYWAYS, CONDUITS AND CABLES...
WE'VE DUG OUR OWN SECRET ENTRANCES AND EXITS DOWN HERE! NO ONE CAN EVER CATCH UP TO US!
THREE TIMES HAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN FAILED TO STOP THE MOLEHILL MOB--AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF DEFEAT RANKLES IN THE CHEST OF THE MASKED MANHUNTER...
IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE...
THIEF'S HONOR, BATMAN! ACCEPT MY GOOD DEED AS PROOF OF MY "NEW" HONESTY! HOWEVER--THERE IS ONE FAVOR I MUST ASK...
...er: WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I WORE MY OLD UNIFORM? AFTER ALL, YOU AND ROBIN WEAR "WORKING CLOTHES"--SO WHY SHOULDN'T I? HOW ABOUT IT?
I DON'T SEE HOW IT CAN DO ANY HARM! ALL RIGHT, MEET US TONIGHT AT EIGHT O'CLOCK NEAR THE SQUARE!
AS E. NIGMA DRIVES OFF...
WAIT--WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE? WHAT OCCURS ONCE IN EVERY MINUTE--TWICE IN A MOMENT--BUT NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS?
THE LETTER "M", ROBIN! I WISH ALL HIS PUZZLES WERE THAT EASY! I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE'RE BEING CONFRONTED WITH THE TRICKIEST ONE OF ALL!

LATER THAT SAME DAY, IN THE STATELY WAYNE MANSION, BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON ARE SHARPENING THEIR MENTAL FACULTIES...
I'M GETTING RID OF ALL SEVEN LETTERS, BRUCE!
R-I-D-D-L-E-R! Hmm! I CAN SEE WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DICK, EVEN WHILE PLAYING THIS GAME OF SCRABBLE!
THAT EVENING AS THE TOWN CLOCK PEALS OUT THE HOUR OF EIGHT, CRIME-FIGHTERS MEET WITH CRIMINAL IN A COMMON CAUSE...
NOW TO SEE IF THE RIDDLER'S REALLY REFORMED!
I WONDER! I DON'T THINK HE CAN CHANGE HIS NATURE ANY MORE THAN A LEOPARD CAN CHANGE ITS SPOTS!
BONG
BONG
LEADING THE DUO DOWN THE STREET, THE RIDDLER PRORS UP A MANHOLE COVER...
FROM THE GRAPEVINE AT THE BIG HOUSE, I LEARNED ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE MOLEHILL MOB HAS ITS HIDE-OUT!
WHAT CAN HE BE UP TO? IF HE'S LEADING US INTO A TRAP-- I'M SURE WE CAN GET OUT OF IT--
MOMENTS LATER, THE CONUNDRUM CHAMPION LEADS THE WAY PAST MILES OF CABLES, DOWN INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGEWAYS OF GOTHAM CITY...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE--
THEN IN A BRIGHTLY LIGHTED ROOM WHICH ONCE WAS A SUBWAY WORK-CREW'S TOOLHOUSE...
AS ADVERTISED--THE MOLEHILL GANG! TAKE 'EM, BATMAN!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THERE'S MORE OF THEM... LET'S GO AND SEE!
IT'S A SCALE MODEL OF THE NEW LI'L COFFIN... THE CLASSY CUSTOM CAR I SAW AT THE WORLD'S FAIR. I MADE IT MYSELF FROM THE MONOGRAM KIT... ONLY $1.49 MONOGRAM HAS 20 CAR KITS IN THIS SAME SCALE.
SUPER FUN
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WELL! IF IT ISN'T THE LITTLE 'T'... MONOGRAM'S FAMOUS HOT ROD BUILT AROUND THE FORD 'T' BUCKET! A GREAT KIT! $1.49
HAPPY MONSTERS! CREATED BY THE MOUSE! THEY'RE ONE DOLLAR EACH.
HAPPY, FRIENDLY MONSTERS! SUPER FUZZ, THE LAWMAN! FLIP OUT, THE SURFER! SPEED SHIFT, FASTEST IN THE WEST!
OH BOY! PLANES TOO! LIGHTNING AND THE TIGER SHARK! $2 - 98¢
GET INTO YOUR FAVORITE STORE FELLOWS! SEE THESE AND 100 OTHER FINE MONOGRAM KITS, INCLUDING THE NEWEST SLOT RACERS AND BIG DELUXE ONE-EIGHTH SCALE MODELS.
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THE NAME FOR Quality HOBBY KITS
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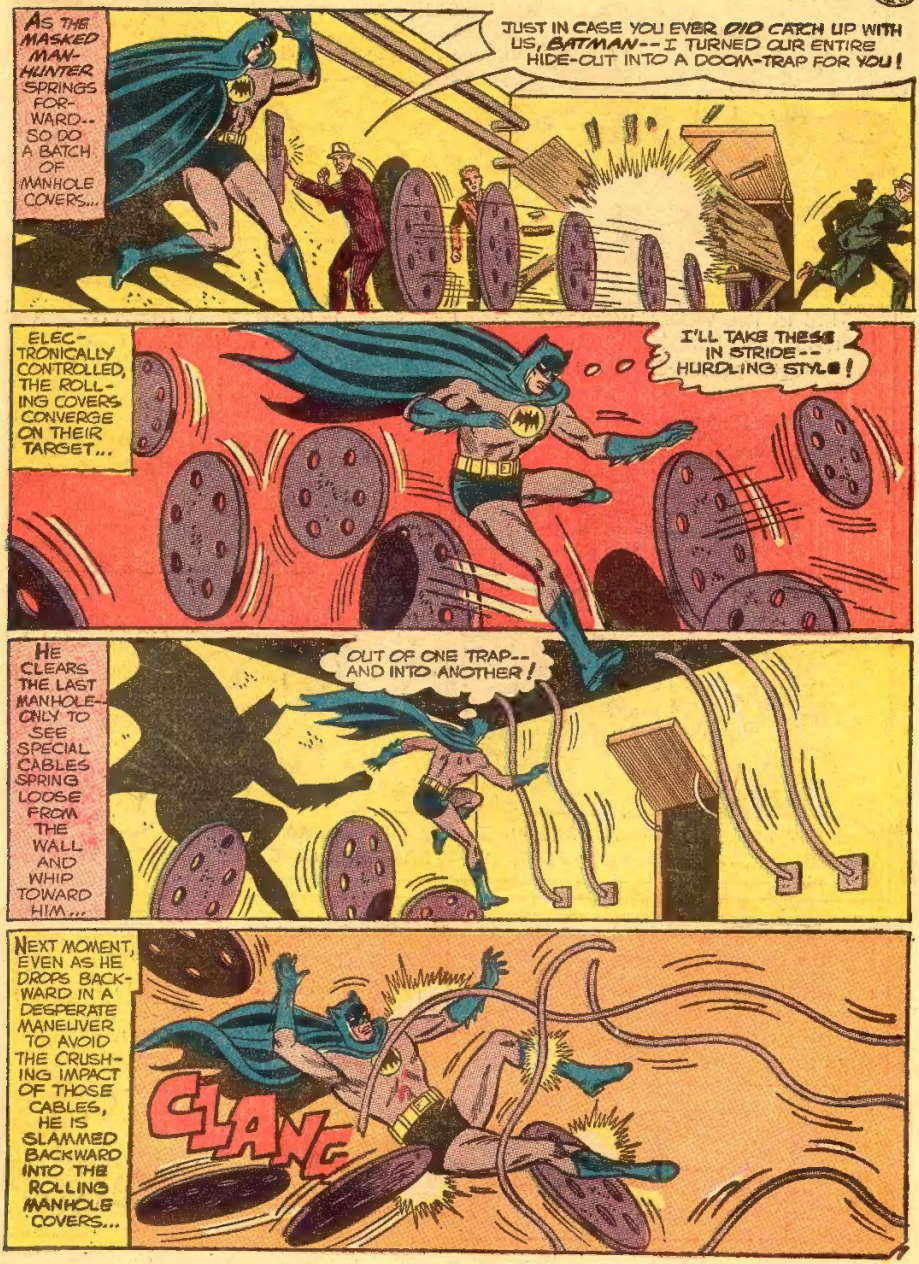
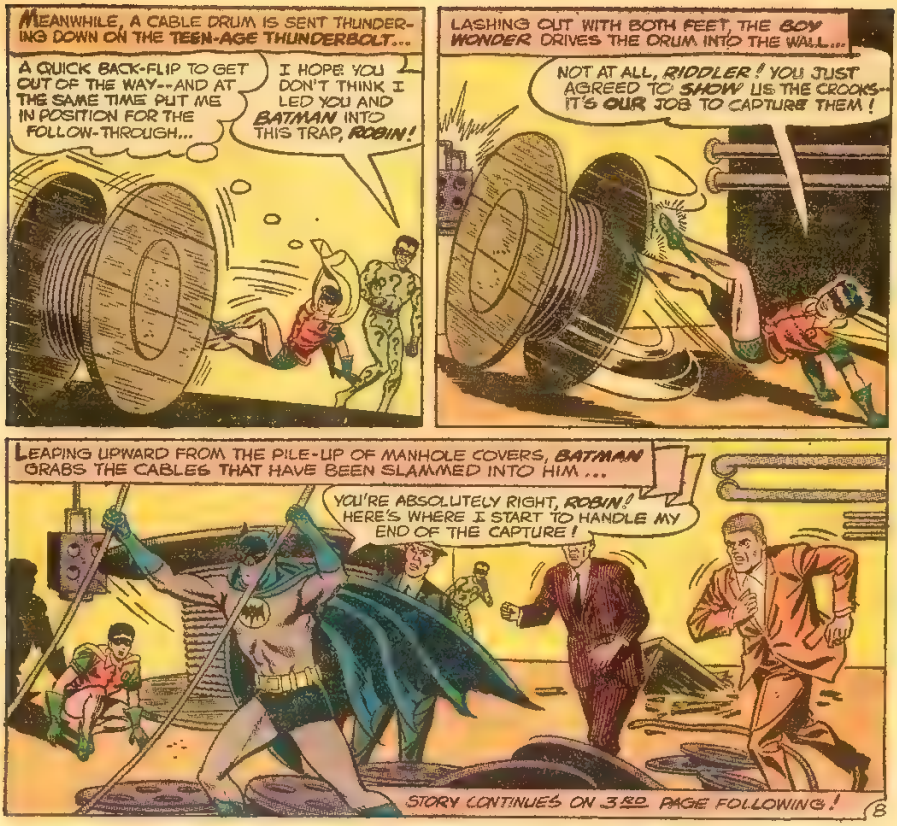

AS THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER SPRINGS FOR-WARD--SO DO A BATCH OF MANHOLE COVERS...
JUST IN CASE YOU EVER DID CATCH UP WITH US, BATMAN--I TURNED OUR ENTIRE HIDE-OUT INTO A DOOM-TRAP FOR YOU!
ELEC-TRONICALLY CONTROLLED, THE ROLL-ING COVERS CONVERGE ON THEIR TARGET...
I'LL TAKE THESE IN STRIDE--HURDLING STYLE!
HE CLEARS THE LAST MANHOLE--ONLY TO SEE SPECIAL CABLES SPRING LOOSE FROM THE WALL AND WHIP TOWARD HIM...
OUT OF ONE TRAP--AND INTO ANOTHER!
NEXT MOMENT, EVEN AS HE DROPS BACK-WARD IN A DESPERATE MANEUVER TO AVOID THE CRUSH-ING IMPACT OF THOSE CABLES, HE IS SLAMMED BACKWARD INTO THE ROLLING MANHOLE COVERS...
CLANG


MEANWHILE, A CABLE DRUM IS SENT THUNDERING DOWN ON THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT...
A QUICK BACK-FLIP TO GET OUT OF THE WAY--AND AT THE SAME TIME PUT ME IN POSITION FOR THE FOLLOW-THROUGH...
I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I LED YOU AND BATMAN INTO THIS TRAP, ROBIN!
LASHING OUT WITH BOTH FEET, THE BOY WONDER DRIVES THE DRUM INTO THE WALL...
NOT AT ALL, RIDDLER! YOU JUST AGREED TO SHOW US THE CROOKS--IT'S OUR JOB TO CAPTURE THEM!
LEAPING UPWARD FROM THE PILE-UP OF MANHOLE COVERS, BATMAN GRABS THE CABLES THAT HAVE BEEN SLAMMED INTO HIM...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, ROBIN! HERE'S WHERE I START TO HANDLE MY END OF THE CAPTURE!
STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD. PAGE FOLLOWING!
8

oh boy! what a toy!
picks up comics!
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The toy that can't decide, you see, what to do or what to be!
Silly Putty MARKETING Inc.
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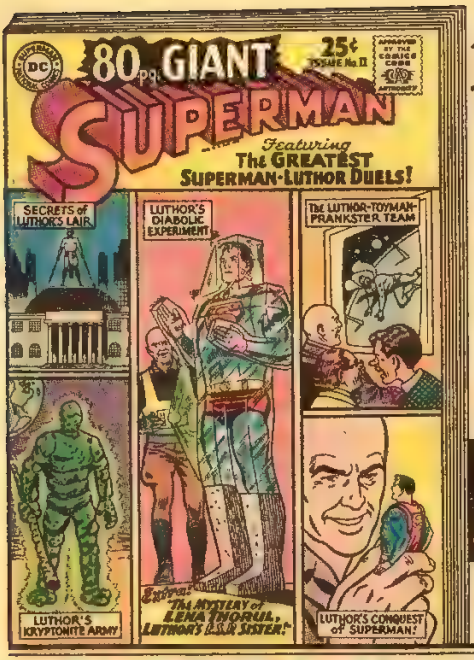

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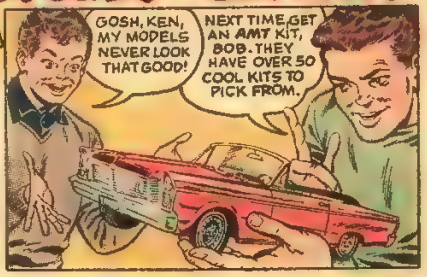

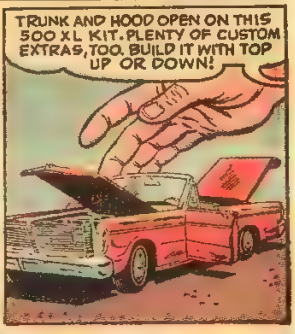

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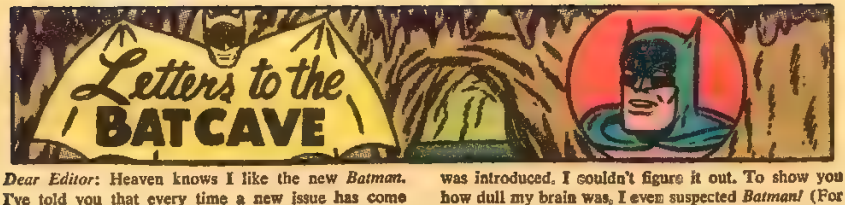


Dear Editor: Heaven knows I like the new *Batman*. I've told you that every time a new issue has come out, and in some places it has gotten to the point where "like" is an understatement. *Batman* number 168 was no exception.

"The Fight that Jolted Gotham City" is one story I've waited for a long, long time. It resolved once and for all the one last remnant of the old *Batman*, the "remnant" I hated more than any other: the fact that *Batman* was always played up as an invincible superhero. It seemed that he and *Robin* could handle anyone and any five men their size and build. Now it may seem "blasphemous" in a way, but I actually enjoyed seeing *Mr. Mammoth* beat the pants off *Batman!* Yes sir, "The Fight that Jolted Gotham City" jolted me too, because in it you turned *Batman* back into a human being. As far as I'm concerned he's no longer a "super" hero, and I prefer him this way! Now, *please*, don't destroy the image!

"How to Solve a Perfect Crime" had a flaw, although it didn't spoil the story. *Batman* assumed that no one would *write* a written report exactly as he *spoke* and so solved the "perfect" crime, but he overlooked the possibility that someone might have *read* his report at the meeting and on page 7, panel 2, it looks like newspaperman Art Saddows is doing just that! Hypothetically speaking, if this had escaped *Batman* he would have had *two* reports that read exactly alike! Now what would our sleuthing friend have done about that? —Robert Butts, 719 Pierce St., South Bend 16, Ind.

(Rather than stir up any controversy over the merits and demerits of the "old" and "new" *Batman*, we prefer be be tagged as the "real" *Batman*—and have him act accordingly. We can't go along with the apparent flaw you spotted in "How to Solve a Perfect Crime"—to us, it's obvious that reporter Saddows was *referring* to his notes, not formally *reading* from them. —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: "The Fight that Jolted Gotham City" was a tale of tremendous impact and excitement, from the colorful cover to the last panel on the final page. The story contained a mystery, which should be the meat of *Batman* stories, and a super-villain who was neither really super nor a villain! Between the mystery and the paradox, I was delighted at the results.

I was no less enthusiastic over "How to Solve a Perfect Crime—in Reverse!" If anything, I enjoyed it much more than I did the first story, which is really saying something! (By the way, I forgot to mention that I solved the first story's mystery about the same time *Batman* and *Robin* did!) Being a *"Mystery Analysts"* fan—in fact, I *love* mystery stories—I was naturally pleased at seeing another in this great series. The story was off and running when the mystery was introduced. I couldn't figure it out. To show you how dull my brain was, I even suspected *Batman!* (For a couple of pages, at least.) When the trance business was brought into the story, I didn't appreciate it at first. Then, remembering that hypnotism is a fact, I stretched a point and admitted that this was all plausible. (It is my contention that all *Batman* stories should be fairly plausible. None of this sci-fi stuff, as was featured in "The Man who Quit the Human Race.") —John Pierce, RR 2, Box 180, Glouster, O., 45732

(As a mystery lover, you should have had a ball trying to figure out this issue's "Remarkable Ruse of the Riddler"—which we hasten to add, was written by Gardner Fox—although we originally had assigned the yarn to Bill Finger. Slated for a forthcoming issue is another *"Mystery Analysts"* puzzler, "The Off-Again On-Again Lightbulbs!" —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: We are informing you of an erroneous statement you made in LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE in the December *Batman*. You reported, once again, the chemical symbol of *Argon* as being "A", rather than the correct symbol "Ar".

For some time, Sienko and Plane's *Chemistry* has been standard equipment for this college as well as other colleges and universities. Sienko and Plane, by the way, are on the staff at Cornell.

How do you expect the inquiring youth of today, such as ourselves, to obtain a greater amount of scientific knowledge from your publications, when only a closed door awaits our inquiry? —Signed by 25 members of HUMBOLDT STATE COLLEGE, Arcata, Cal.

(We're still sticking by our chemical guns that the symbol for *Argon* is "A"—using as our references Webster's *Unabridged* and *American College Dictionaries*, Van Nostrand's *Scientific Encyclopedia*, the Popular Science *Encyclopedia of the Sciences*, and the Grolier Society's *Book of Popular Science*. We advise all further discussion on this subject be directed to the above publishers. —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I thought that the December *Batman* was pretty good. My only complaint about the first story was that it was too *short*, although the artwork was very good. I liked the second story because it was *long*, mysterious, and had excellent art. —Phil Jubinville, RFD 1, Box 35, Holyoke, Mass.

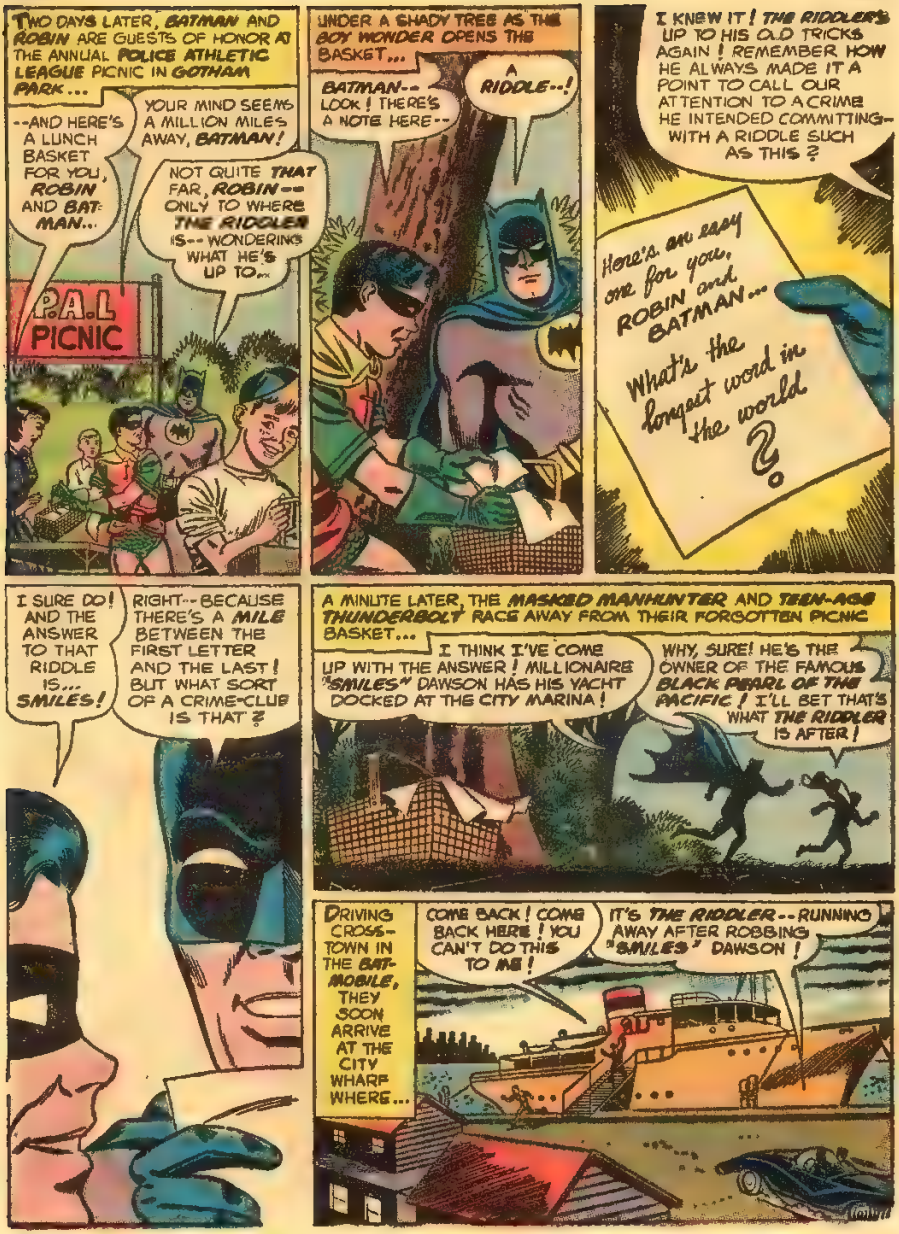
(This note is a baffler! *Both* stories had the *same* page-length—but maybe the action was so fast and furious in the first story, it just *seemed* shorter! —*Editor*)

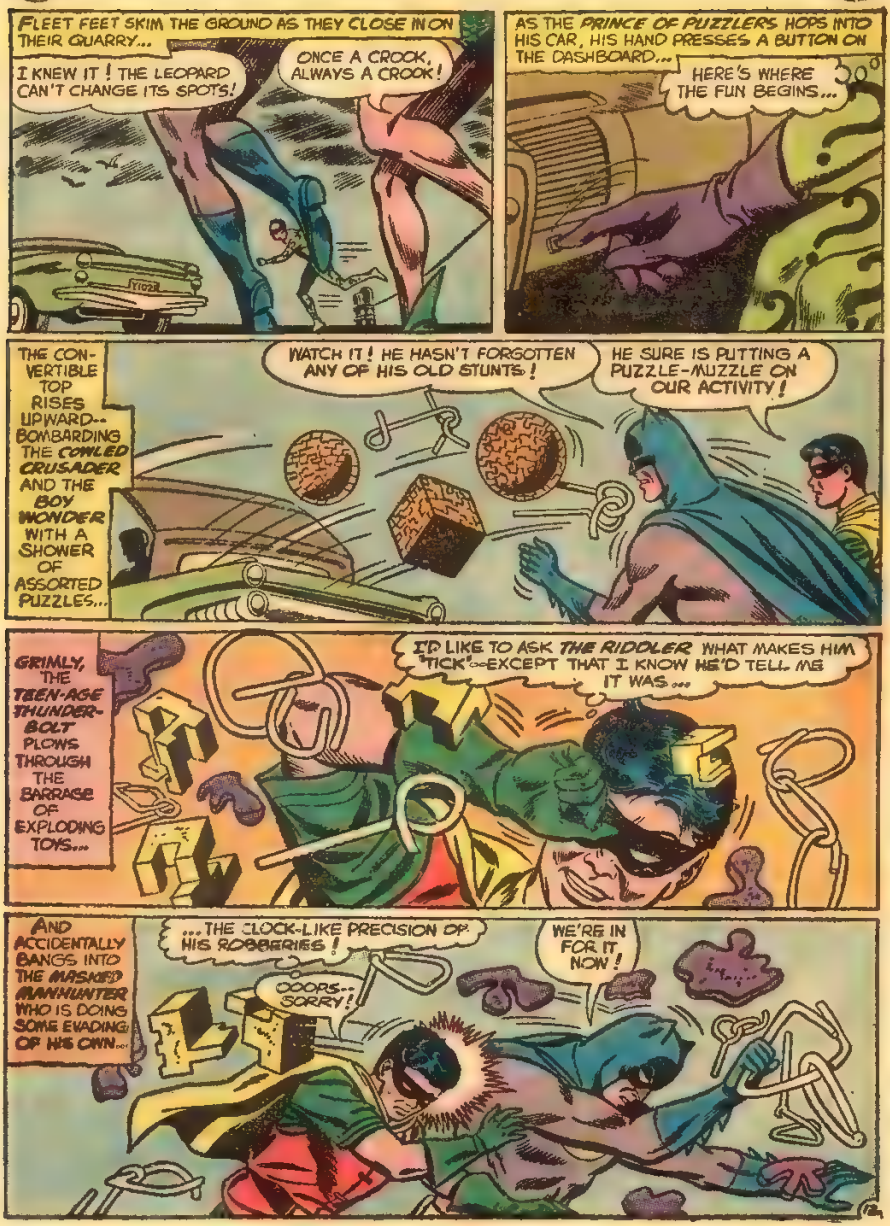
Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10022.

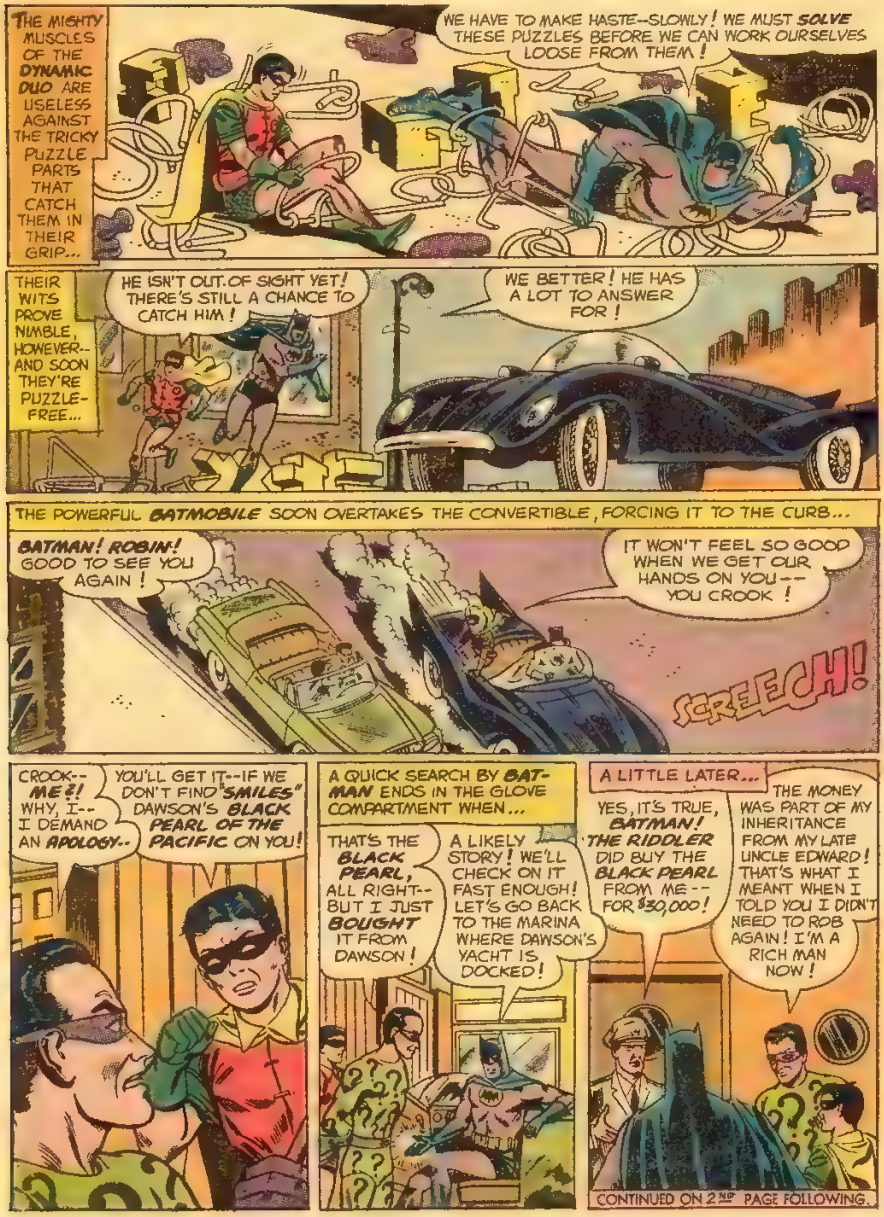
REMARKABLE RUSE of THE RIDDLER--PART 2

THE CABLES RELEASED BY BATMAN SNAP BACK AT HIS ATTACKERS! BEHIND HIM, ROBIN SPRINGS TO THE ATTACK AGAINST THE MOLEHILL MOB CHIEF! AND STANDING ALOOF FROM ALL THE SOUND AND FURY IS THE RIDDLER--ROOTING FOR HIS FORMER OPPONENTS TO WIN A SMASHING VICTORY...
GET 'EM, BATMAN AND ROBIN--
--SO WE CAN GET ON WITH OUR OWN PERSONAL BUSINESS!
THAT TAKES CARE OF THREE OF THEM AT ONCE!
OH, NO YOU DON'T--!
GOT TO RELEASE ANOTHER SECRET WEAPON TO DROP THEM IN THEIR TRACKS!

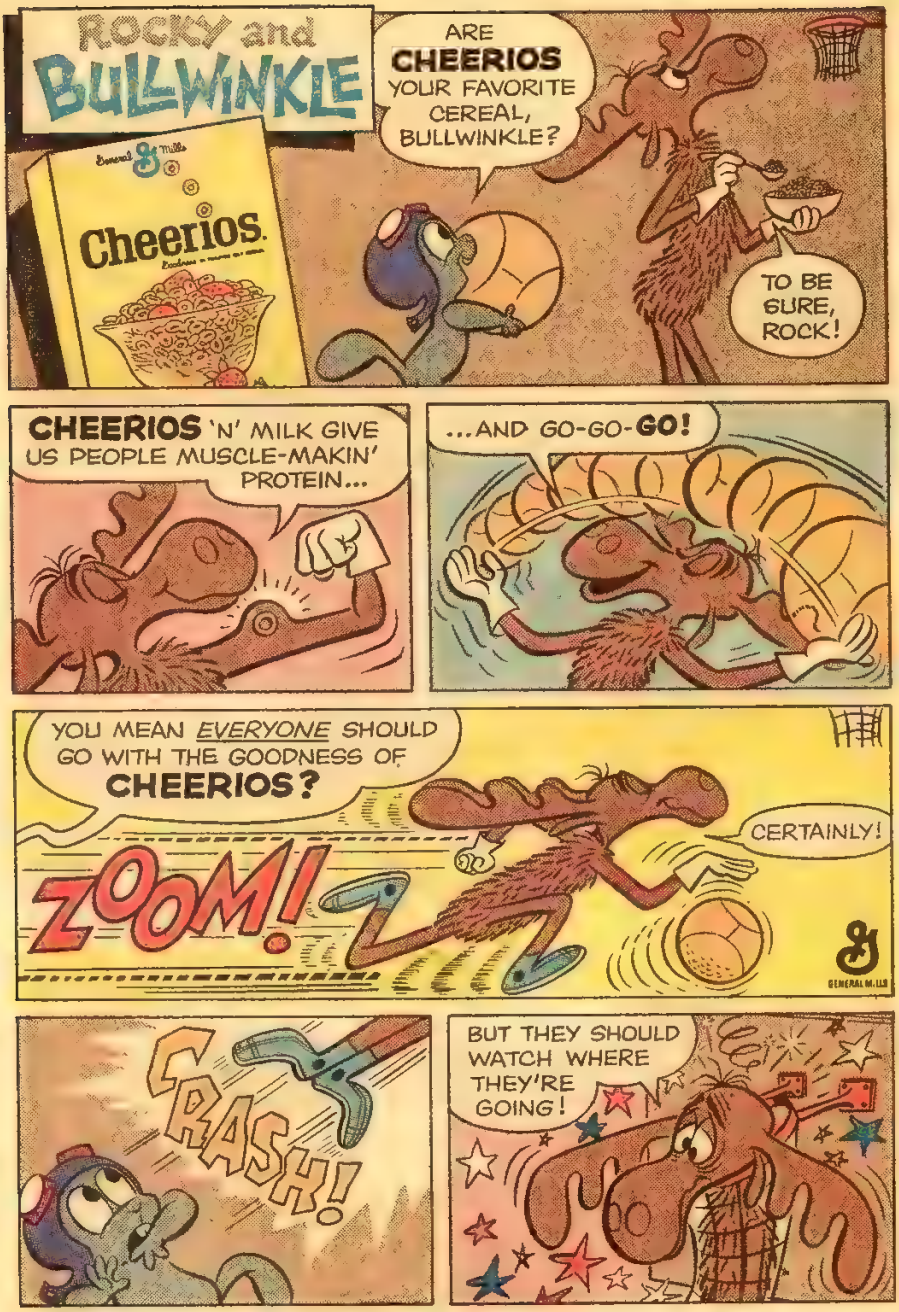
LIKE A MIGHTY HUNTING CAT, THE MASKED MANHUNTER DROPS ON HIS PREY...
CAUGHT TWO ... BUT THAT'LL DO...
...FOR WHAT ROBIN WOULD CALL A TRUE MEETING OF MINDS!
EVEN BEFORE THE TWO MOBSTERS FALL, HIS FIST IS LASHING OUT AT THE THIRD MAN...
THAT WINDS UP MY ASSIGNMENT!
ROBIN MAKES LIKE A HUMAN BOMB AS HE EXPLODES AGAINST THE GANGLEADER IN A TEN-KNUCKLE ATTACK...
THIS IS HOW I PUT MY STAMP OF DISAPPROVAL ON YOU!
THERE IS A MOMENTARY SILENCE IN THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBER, THEN...
THAT'S THE END OF THE MOLE-HILL MOB--
--WITH AN ASSIST FROM THE RIDDLER! ARE YOU CONVINCED NOW THAT I'M A CHANGED MAN?
FOR THE MOMENT, YES--


TWO DAYS LATER, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GUESTS OF HONOR AT THE ANNUAL POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE PICNIC IN GOTHAM PARK...
--AND HERE'S A LUNCH BASKET FOR YOU, ROBIN AND BATMAN...
YOUR MIND SEEMS A MILLION MILES AWAY, BATMAN!
NOT QUITE THAT FAR, ROBIN-- ONLY TO WHERE THE RIDDLER IS-- WONDERING WHAT HE'S UP TO...
P.A.L PICNIC
UNDER A SHADY TREE AS THE BOY WONDER OPENS THE BASKET...
BATMAN-- LOOK! THERE'S A NOTE HERE--
A RIDDLE--!
I KNEW IT! THE RIDDLER'S UP TO HIS O.D TRICKS AGAIN! REMEMBER HOW HE ALWAYS MADE IT A POINT TO CALL OUR ATTENTION TO A CRIME HE INTENDED COMMITTING-- WITH A RIDDLE SUCH AS THIS?
Here's an easy one for you, ROBIN and BATMAN... What's the longest word in the world?
I SURE DO! AND THE ANSWER TO THAT RIDDLE IS... SMILES!
RIGHT-- BECAUSE THERE'S A MILE BETWEEN THE FIRST LETTER AND THE LAST! BUT WHAT SORT OF A CRIME-CLUB IS THAT?
A MINUTE LATER, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT RACE AWAY FROM THEIR FORGOTTEN PICNIC BASKET...
I THINK I'VE COME UP WITH THE ANSWER! MILLIONAIRE "SMILES" DAWSON HAS HIS YACHT DOCKED AT THE CITY MARINA!
WHY, SURE! HE'S THE OWNER OF THE FAMOUS BLACK PEARL OF THE PACIFIC! I'LL BET THAT'S WHAT THE RIDDLER IS AFTER!
DRIVING CROSS-TOWN IN THE BAT-MOBILE, THEY SOON ARRIVE AT THE CITY WHARF WHERE...
COME BACK! COME BACK HERE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
IT'S THE RIDDLER-- RUNNING AWAY AFTER ROBBING "SMILES" DAWSON!


FLEET FEET SKIM THE GROUND AS THEY CLOSE IN ON THEIR QUARRY...
I KNEW IT! THE LEOPARD CAN'T CHANGE ITS SPOTS!
ONCE A CROOK, ALWAYS A CROOK!
AS THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS HOPS INTO HIS CAR, HIS HAND PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE DASHBOARD...
HERE'S WHERE THE FUN BEGINS...
THE CONVERTIBLE TOP RISES UPWARD-- BOMBARDING THE COWLED CRUSADER AND THE BOY WONDER WITH A SHOWER OF ASSORTED PUZZLES...
WATCH IT! HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ANY OF HIS OLD STUNTS!
HE SURE IS PUTTING A PUZZLE-MUZZLE ON OUR ACTIVITY!
GRIMLY, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT PLOWS THROUGH THE BARRAGE OF EXPLODING TOYS...
I'D LIKE TO ASK THE RIDDLER WHAT MAKES HIM "TICK"--EXCEPT THAT I KNOW HE'D TELL ME IT WAS...
AND ACCIDENTALLY BANGS INTO THE MASKED MANHUNTER WHO IS DOING SOME EVADING OF HIS OWN...
...THE CLOCK-LIKE PRECISION OF HIS ROBBERIES!
OOORS... SORRY!
WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW!

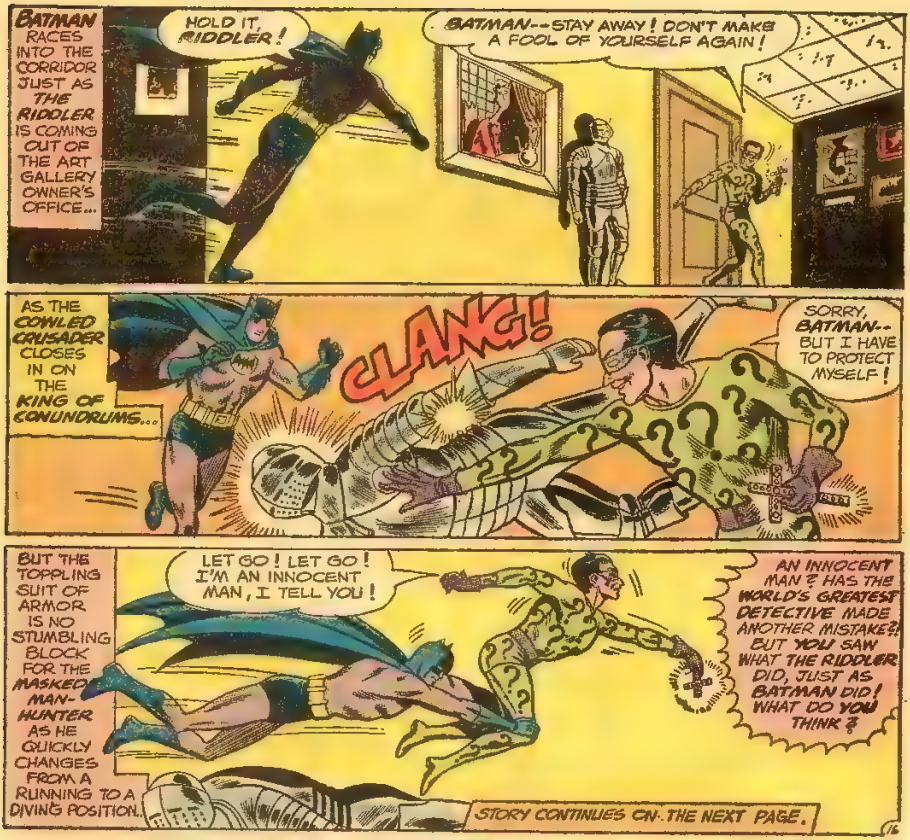

THE MIGHTY MUSCLES OF THE DYNAMIC DUO ARE USELESS AGAINST THE TRICKY PUZZLE PARTS THAT CATCH THEM IN THEIR GRIP...
WE HAVE TO MAKE HASTE--SLOWLY! WE MUST SOLVE THESE PUZZLES BEFORE WE CAN WORK OURSELVES LOOSE FROM THEM!
THEIR WITS PROVE NIMBLE, HOWEVER--AND SOON THEY'RE PUZZLE-FREE...
HE ISN'T OUT OF SIGHT YET! THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO CATCH HIM!
WE BETTER! HE HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR!
THE POWERFUL BATMOBILE SOON OVERTAKES THE CONVERTIBLE, FORCING IT TO THE CURB...
BATMAN! ROBIN! GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
IT WON'T FEEL SO GOOD WHEN WE GET OUR HANDS ON YOU--YOU CROOK!
SCREECH!
CROOK--ME?! WHY, I--I DEMAND AN APOLOGY..
YOU'LL GET IT--IF WE DON'T FIND "SMILES" DAWSON'S BLACK PEARL OF THE PACIFIC ON YOU!
A QUICK SEARCH BY BATMAN ENDS IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT WHEN...
THAT'S THE BLACK PEARL, ALL RIGHT--BUT I JUST BOUGHT IT FROM DAWSON!
A LIKELY STORY! WE'LL CHECK ON IT FAST ENOUGH! LET'S GO BACK TO THE MARINA WHERE DAWSON'S YACHT IS DOCKED!
A LITTLE LATER...
YES, IT'S TRUE, BATMAN! THE RIDDLER DID BUY THE BLACK PEARL FROM ME--FOR $30,000!
THE MONEY WAS PART OF MY INHERITANCE FROM MY LATE UNCLE EDWARD! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT WHEN I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T NEED TO ROB AGAIN! I'M A RICH MAN NOW!

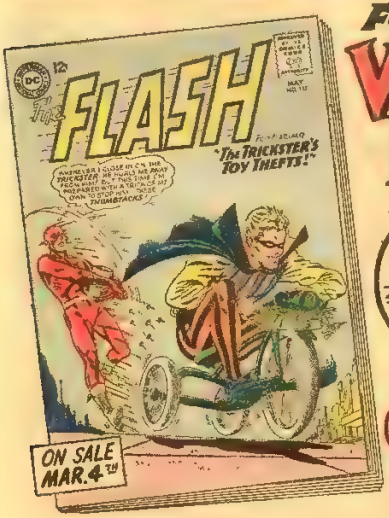
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.


ROCKY and BULLWINKLE
General Mills
Cheerios
ARE CHEERIOS YOUR FAVORITE CEREAL, BULLWINKLE?
TO BE SURE, ROCK!
CHEERIOS 'N' MILK GIVE US PEOPLE MUSCLE-MAKIN' PROTEIN...
...AND GO-GO-GO!
YOU MEAN EVERYONE SHOULD GO WITH THE GOODNESS OF CHEERIOS?
CERTAINLY!
ZOOM!
GENERAL MILLS
CRASH!
BUT THEY SHOULD WATCH WHERE THEY'RE GOING!

THEN WHY'D YOU PUT THAT RIDDLE IN OUR PICNIC BASKET--AND WHY'D YOU ATTACK US WITH THOSE PUZZLES?
I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER ABOUT YOUR ATTENDING THAT PICNIC--AND THE RIDDLE WAS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING "HELLO"! AS FOR THOSE PUZZLES, I FORGOT I HAD PUT THEM IN MY CONVERTIBLE TOP--AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY HAD--er--INCONVENIENCED YOU...
???
A MIGHTLY PUZZLED BATMAN STARES AFTER HIS FORMER FOE...
FORGET ABOUT THAT APOLOGY YOU OWE ME, BATMAN--I'M SORRY I PUT YOU TO ALL THAT TROUBLE! AND TO SHOW YOU I HAVE NO HARD FEELINGS...
...HERE'S A LITTLE PRESENT I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR BOTH OF YOU!
AFTER THE RIDDLER DRIVES OFF...
BUT WHY DID YOU SHOUT FOR THE RIDDLER TO COME BACK, MR. DAWSON?
HE HAD ASKED ME A RIDDLE--AND WAS LEAVING WITHOUT TELLING ME THE ANSWER!
HOW'D IT GO?
"THERE ARE THREE MEN IN A BOAT WITH FOUR CIGARETTES, BUT NO MATCHES. HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO SMOKE THEIR CIGARETTES?"
THAT'S AN OLD ONE! THEY TOSSED A CIGARETTE OVERBOARD--AND MADE THE BOAT A CIGARETTE LIGHTER!
BY THIS TIME ROBIN HAS OPENED THE RIDDLER'S PRESENT...
HUH? THERE'S NOTHING IN HERE BUT A SHEET OF PAPER!
MAYBE THERE'S INVISIBLE WRITING ON IT! LET'S TEST IT OUT WITH THE PORTABLE CRIME-LAB IN THE BATMOBILE!

BOTH THE COWLED CRUSADER AND THE BOY WONDER ARE SKILLED LAB TECHNICIANS, SO THAT AFTER A FEW MINUTES WORK...
IT WASN'T WRITTEN IN LEMON JUICE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T RESPOND TO HEAT...
I THINK I'VE FOUND THE SOLUTION THAT DOES BRING IT OUT! TAKE A LOOK...
Why is an orange like a bell?
BECAUSE BOTH MUST BE PEELED (PEALED)! Hmmm -- THERE'S A PEALE ART GALLERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY!
ONCE AGAIN THE BAT-MOBILE ROARS THROUGH THE STREETS...
THE PEALE ART GALLERY CONTAINS SOME MIGHTY RARE ART TREASURES...
ANY ONE OF WHICH WOULD TEMPT THE RIDDLER!
WHEN THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION, THE WARY BATMAN LEAVES ROBIN AT THE CAR WHILE HE HIMSELF PEERS IN AN OFFICE WINDOW...
THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT! THIS TIME WE HAVE HIM--
THROUGH THAT WINDOW, THE COWLED CRUSADER SEES...
I'M GOING TO CATCH THE RIDDLER RED-HANDED IN THE ACT OF ARMED ROBBERY!


BATMAN RACES INTO THE CORRIDOR JUST AS THE RIDDLER IS COMING OUT OF THE ART GALLERY OWNER'S OFFICE...
HOLD IT, RIDDLER!
BATMAN--STAY AWAY! DON'T MAKE A FOOL OF YOURSELF AGAIN!
AS THE COWLED CRUSADER CLOSES IN ON THE KING OF CONUNDRUMS...
CLANG!
SORRY, BATMAN-- BUT I HAVE TO PROTECT MYSELF!
BUT THE TOPPLING SUIT OF ARMOR IS NO STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER AS HE QUICKLY CHANGES FROM A RUNNING TO A DIVING POSITION.
LET GO! LET GO! I'M AN INNOCENT MAN, I TELL YOU!
AN INNOCENT MAN? HAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE MADE ANOTHER MISTAKE?! BUT YOU SAW WHAT THE RIDDLER DID, JUST AS BATMAN DID! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
STORY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.



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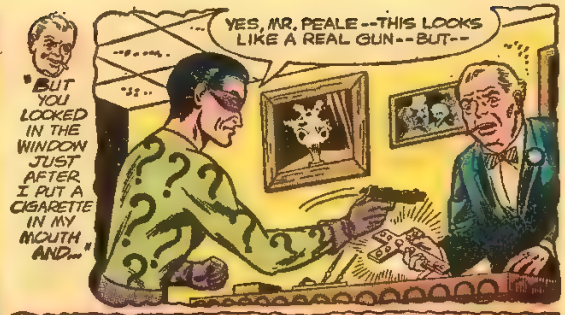
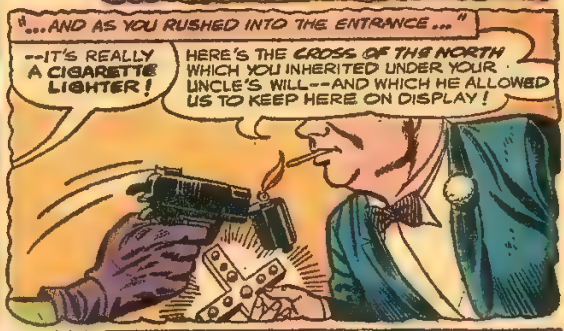
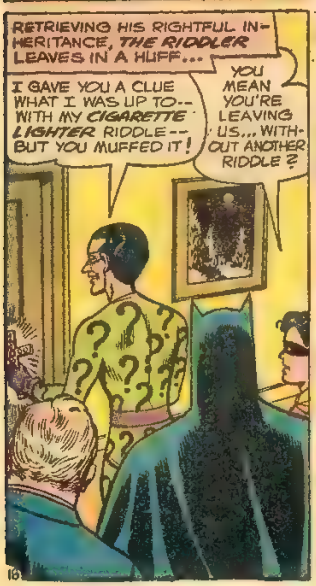
REMARKABLE RUSE of THE RIDDLER--PART 3

DOWN GOES THE **PRINCE OF PUZZLERS**, THE IVORY-AND-RUBY CROSS WRENCHED FROM HIS HANDS--JUST AS ART GALLERY OWNER ROGER PEALE MAKES AN APPEARANCE AND CLEARS **THE RIDDLER** OF ANY WRONG-DOING ! WHAT CRUEL AND DEADLY GAME IS **THE RIDDLER** PLAYING WITH **BATMAN** ? HAS HE REALLY GONE STRAIGHT--OR IS THIS ALL PART OF A CROOKED SCHEME LEADING TO SOME UNGUESSED CLIMAX ?

STANDING OVER HIS FOE, BATMAN TURNS BEWILDERED EYES AT THE ART GALLERY OWNER...
HOW'S THAT AGAIN? FROM OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW, I SAW HIM STEAL THE CROSS--AT GUN-POINT!
IT MAY HAVE LOOKED THAT WAY TO YOU...




"...AND AS YOU RUSHED INTO THE ENTRANCE..."
--IT'S REALLY A CIGARETTE LIGHTER!
HERE'S THE CROSS OF THE NORTH WHICH YOU INHERITED UNDER YOUR UNCLE'S WILL--AND WHICH HE ALLOWED US TO KEEP HERE ON DISPLAY!


RETRIEVING HIS RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE, THE RIDDLER LEAVES IN A HUFF...
I GAVE YOU A CLUE WHAT I WAS UP TO--WITH MY CIGARETTE LIGHTER RIDDLE--BUT YOU MUFFED IT!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE LEAVING US... WITHOUT ANOTHER RIDDLE?

A SLY GRIN TWISTS THE RIDDLER'S LIPS AS HE WALKS OFF...
THE STAGE IS SET! BATMAN NOW HAS THE CLUES TO THE RIDDLE THAT WILL TIP HIM OFF TO THE CRIME I REALLY AM GOING TO COMMIT! BUT I'M BETTING BATMAN WILL NEVER SOLVE THIS ONE--AT LEAST NOT IN TIME TO STOP ME!
CAN YOU SOLVE THE RIDDLE THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS LEFT FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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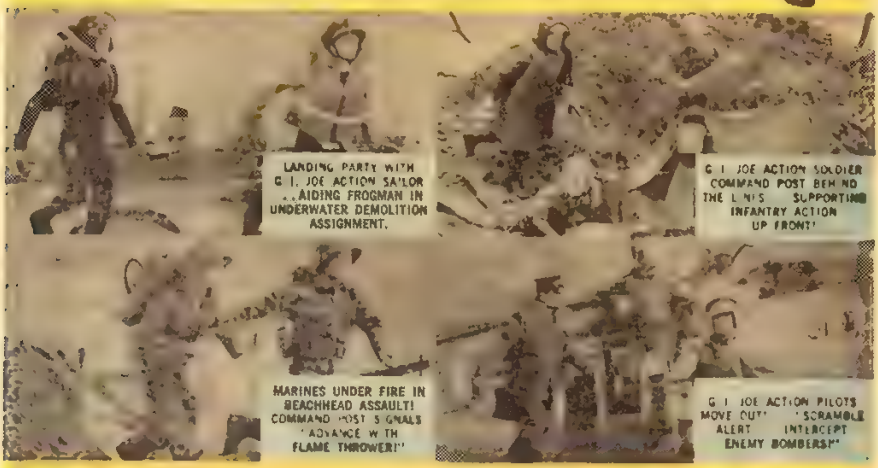
LANDING PARTY WITH G. I. JOE ACTION SAILOR ...AIDING FROGMAN IN UNDERWATER DEMOLITION ASSIGNMENT.
G. I. JOE ACTION SOLDIER COMMAND POST BEHIND THE LINES SUPPORTING INFANTRY ACTION UP FRONT!
MARINES UNDER FIRE IN BEACHHEAD ASSAULT! COMMAND POST SIGNALS "ADVANCE WITH FLAME THROWER!"
G. I. JOE ACTION PILOTS MOVE OUT! "SCRAMBLE ALERT INTERCEPT ENEMY BOMBERS!"

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IT IS A PUZZLED PAIR WHO RETURNS TO THE BATMOBILE...
IF HE LEFT US A RIDDLE--WHERE IS IT?
KNOWING THE WAY HIS MIND WORKS, I'D SAY IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR TWO ENCOUNTERS! LET'S REVIEW THEM...
BY THE TIME THEY GET IN THE BATMOBILE, A GRIN OF DELIGHT TOUCHES THE FEATURES OF THE BOY WONDER...
I'VE GOT IT! IT'S THE COLORS OF THE OBJECTS WE THOUGHT HE HAD STOLEN! A BLACK PEARL--AND A WHITE CROSS WITH RED RUBIES ALL OVER IT! REMEMBER THE OLD CHESTNUT--"WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ("READ") ALL OVER?
SURE...A NEWSPAPER!
THE GOTHAM TIMES IS HAVING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY TONIGHT! THERE'LL BE LOTS OF CELEBRITIES AND RICH GUESTS TO ROB!
NOT SO FAST, ROBIN! IT WORKS OUT--TOO EASILY! LET'S CONSIDER IF THERE'S STILL ANOTHER ANSWER TO THOSE CLUES!
NIGHT MANTLES THE CITY--AND IN ITS GAY NIGHT SPOTS, SUCH AS THE OX' CLUB WHERE THE WILD WEST FORMS THE MOTIF OF ITS DECORATIONS, MEN AND WOMEN ARE MAKING MERRY...
SUDDENLY A VOICE RAGPS AN ORDER...
FREEZE, PODNERS! THIS IS A HOLDUP!

AS THE RIDDLER'S GANG HERDS THE FUN-MAKERS INTO ANOTHER ROOM TO DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR VALUABLES, THE RIDDLER ADVANCES INTO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE...
MY RUSE WORKED! BATMAN SOLVED THE RIDDLE I LEFT HIM-- BUT NOT THE RIDDLE WITHIN THE RIDDLE!
HIS NIMBLE FINGERS FIND THE SAFE COMBINATION LOCK EASY TO OPEN...
IT'S ALMOST A "CRIME" THE WAY I TRICKED HIM! BUT I PLAYED FAIR! I GAVE BATMAN THE NECESSARY CLUES! IF HE MISINTERPRETED THEM--THAT'S HIS TOUGH LUCK!
THEN FROM AN ADJOINING DOORWAY, TWO GRIM FIGURES RACE IN...
BATMAN! ROBIN! YOU-- SOLVED MY TWO-IN-ONE RIDDLE?!
OBVIOUSLY! NOW-- HERE'S WHERE WE TAKE YOU FOR REAL!
WITH A LOUD CRY, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS LEAPS TO HIS FEET...
NO FISTICUFFS, PLEASE! I SURRENDER! BELIEVE ME!
GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT, eh?
HARDLY, ROBIN! FOR EVEN AS BATMAN REACHES OUT TO GRASP THE RIDDLER BY THE ARM...
OWOO! HIS UNIFORM IS ELECTRIFIED!
HERE COMES MORE TROUBLE-- THE RIDDLER'S GANG!

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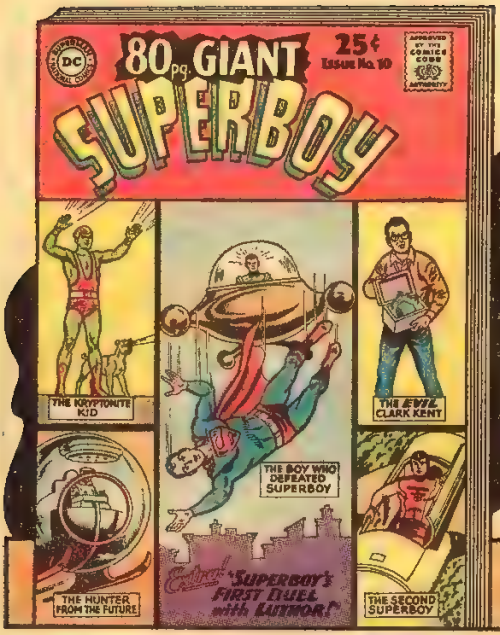

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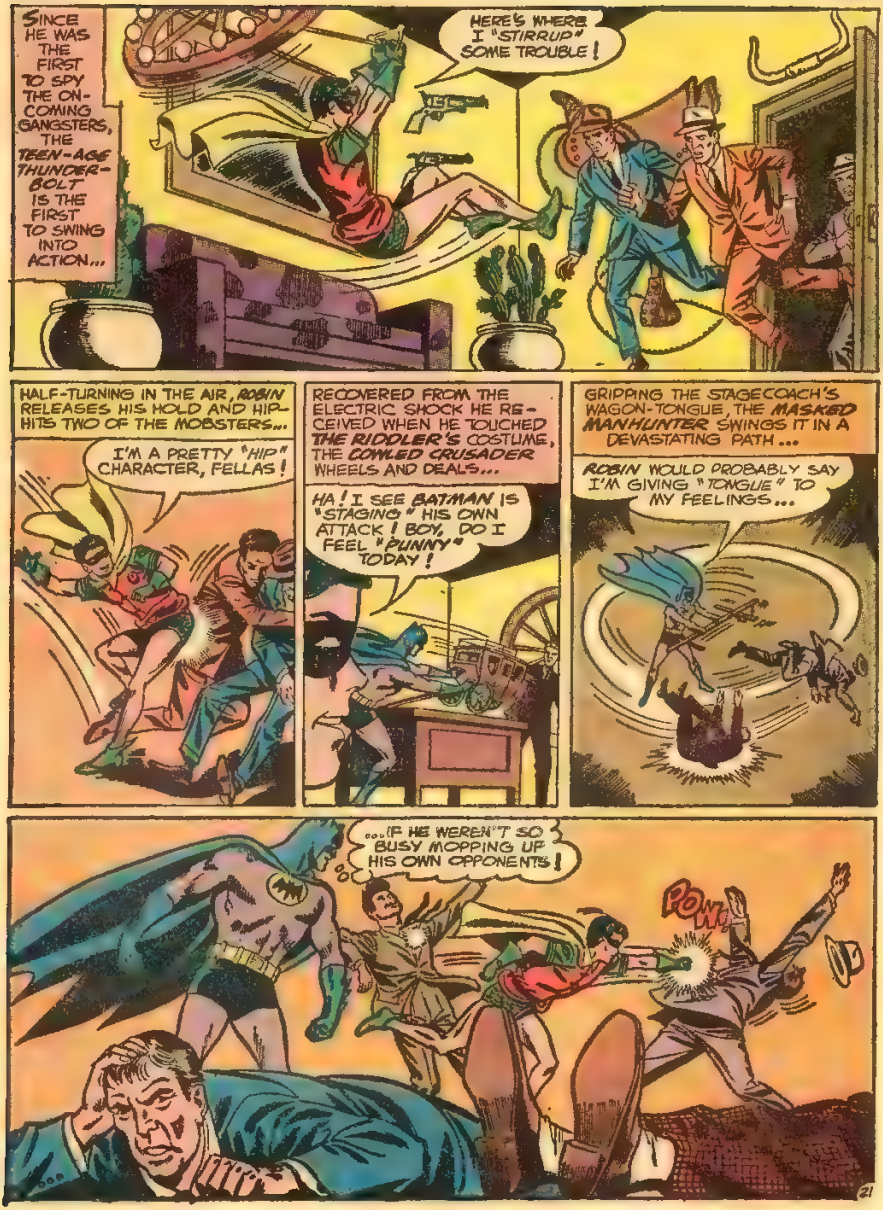

SINCE HE WAS THE FIRST TO SPY THE ON-COMING GANGSTERS, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT IS THE FIRST TO SWING INTO ACTION...
HERE'S WHERE I "STIRRUP" SOME TROUBLE!
HALF-TURNING IN THE AIR, ROBIN RELEASES HIS HOLD AND HIP-HITS TWO OF THE MOBSTERS...
I'M A PRETTY "HIP" CHARACTER, FELLAS!
RECOVERED FROM THE ELECTRIC SHOCK HE RE-CEIVED WHEN HE TOUCHED THE RIDDLER'S COSTUME, THE COWLED CRUSADER WHEELS AND DEALS...
HA! I SEE BATMAN IS "STAGING" HIS OWN ATTACK! BOY, DO I FEEL "PUNNY" TODAY!
GRIPPING THE STAGECOACH'S WAGON-TONGUE, THE MASKED MANHUNTER SWINGS IT IN A DEVASTATING PATH...
ROBIN WOULD PROBABLY SAY I'M GIVING "TONGUE" TO MY FEELINGS...
...IF HE WEREN'T SO BUSY MOPPING UP HIS OWN OPPONENTS!
POW!

ONE LAST OPPONENT REMAINS--AS THE COWLED CRUSADER ADVANCES TOWARD HIM, FISTS CLENCHED...
ODD! DURING ALL THIS ACTION, THE RIDDLER HASN'T MADE A MOVE!
TAKING DEAD AIM, HE RAMS A SOLID FIST AGAINST THE JAW OF THE MOTIONLESS RIDDLER.
YOUR FACE ISN'T WIRED THE WAY YOUR UNIFORM IS--SO JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE NO MORE SURPRISES UP THAT ELECTRIC SLEEVE--I'LL KNOCK YOU OUT!
THE RIDDLER BANGS INTO THE FLOOR--AND TO THE STUNNED AMAZEMENT OF THE DYNAMIC DUO, PROMPTLY STARTS SWINGING BACK TO AN UPRIGHT POSITION...
HA, HA! HA! HA!
THAT SOCK SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED HIM DOWN AND OUT!
HERE--LET ME HAVE A CRACK AT THAT ROLY-POLY RIDDLER!
FISTS FLAIL THE AIR AND REBOUND OFF THE JAW OF THE RIDDLER AS FIRST ONE CRIME-FIGHTER AND THEN THE OTHER SLAMS HIM HARD...
WHAT'S KEEPING HIM UP?
HA, HA, HA!
HE TAKES OUR BEST BLOWS--AND LAUGHS AT US!

TIMING THEIR BLOWS, EACH OF THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY DRIVES A HARD FIST INTO THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS...
LET'S TRY--
HA! HA!
--TOGETHERNESS!
SOK!
BUT WHEN THE RIDDLER AGAIN REFUSES TO COLLAPSE FROM THOSE AWESOME BLOWS...
;Whew!; MY FIST ACHES!
YOU CAN'T KEEP ME DOWN--- SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP!
SUDDENLY, THE BOY WONDER TURNS AND RACES FOR THE DOORWAY...
I KNOW HOW TO STOP HIM, BATMAN! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ROBIN HAS IN MIND, BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS TOYING WITH YOU! BY THE TIME HE RETURNS, I'LL HAVE MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY!
GETAWAY?! THAT MEANS HE CAN MOVE OFF THAT SPOT WHENEVER HE WANTS TO! SOMETHING MUST CONTROL THAT ABILITY TO MOVE ABOUT--AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS!
IN A FLASH, BATMAN REFLECTS, "WHEN ROBIN AND I RAN IN HERE, HE LEAPED UP AND SHOUTED HIS SURRENDER--MAKING A CERTAIN GESTURE..."

WHEN ROBIN RETURNS, HE SEES THE RIDDLER DRAPED OVER THE SAFE ...

MY BLUFF WORKED! I FIGURED IF I TOLD HIM I KNEW HOW TO OVERCOME HIM, HE'D DO--OR SAY--SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU A CLUE HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM!

HE SURE DID--BY BOASTING HE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE HIS GETAWAY!

I RECALLED THAT HE TOUCHED THE DOT PART OF THE LARGE QUESTION MARK ON HIS CHEST WHEN WE RAN IN! IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT--HE NEVER MOVED FROM THAT SPOT ON THE FLOOR HE WAS ON! I DEDUCED THAT DOT ACTIVATED HIS ELECTRIC SUIT AND HIS ROLY-POLY DEFENSE!

'SO ALL I HAD TO DO WAS REACH OUT AND PRESS THAT DOT--THE ONLY PART OF HIS UNIFORM THAT WAS NOT ELECTRIFIED--TO DEACTIVATE THE CONTROLS..."

NO, BATMAN--DON'T!

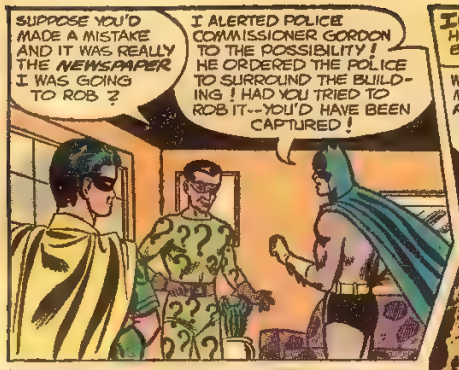
'THEN I REALLY LET HIM HAVE IT!..."

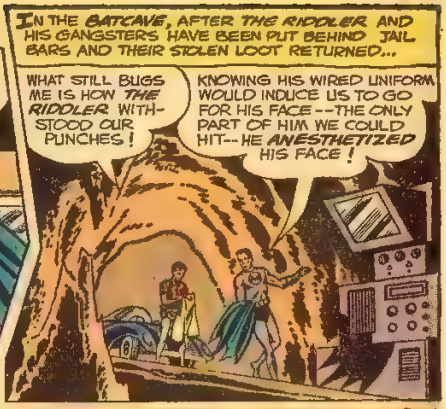
AS THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER LIFTS THE DAZED RIDDLER TO HIS FEET...

CON--GRATULATIONS, BATMAN--ON FIGURING OUT--THE RIGHT RIDDLE--

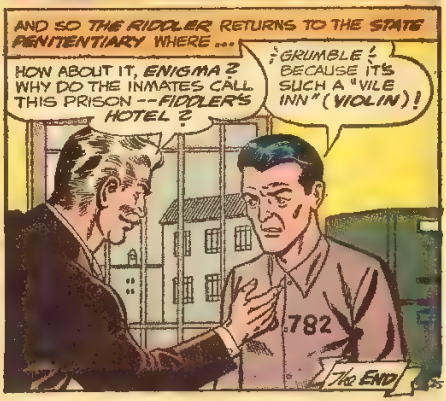
IT WASN'T A NEWS-PAPER YOU MEANT--THOUGH ROBIN AND I WENT THERE TO MAKE YOU THINK WE'D FALLEN FOR YOUR TRICK!

BATMAN FIGURED OUT THAT YOUR RIDDLE REFERRED TO THE SHAPES OF THE OBJECTS, NOT THEIR COLORS! THEREFORE THE RIDDLE WAS: 'MY FIRST IS A CIRCLE (the pearl), MY SECOND IS A CROSS (the ivory pole). JOIN THEM TOGETHER--OR BE AT A LOSS!" JOINING A CIRCLE TO A CROSS MAKES THE WORD OX--MEANING YOU INTENDED TO ROB THE PLUSH OX CLUB!


SUPPOSE YOU'D MADE A MISTAKE AND IT WAS REALLY THE NEWSPAPER I WAS GOING TO ROB ?
I ALERTED POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON TO THE POSSIBILITY ! HE ORDERED THE POLICE TO SURROUND THE BUILDING ! HAD YOU TRIED TO ROB IT--YOU'D HAVE BEEN CAPTURED !


IN THE BATCAVE, AFTER THE RIDDLER AND HIS GANGSTERS HAVE BEEN PUT BEHIND JAIL BARS AND THEIR STOLEN LOOT RETURNED...
WHAT STILL BUGS ME IS HOW THE RIDDLER WITHSTOOD OUR PUNCHES !
KNOWING HIS WIRED UNIFORM WOULD INDUCE US TO GO FOR HIS FACE--THE ONLY PART OF HIM WE COULD HIT--HE ANESTHETIZED HIS FACE !

SINCE IT IS SHOCK THAT ACTUALLY CAUSES A PERSON TO BE KNOCKED OUT, THE ANESTHETIC PREVENTED HIM FROM FEELING ANY PAIN AND EXPERIENCING ANY SHOCK--SO HE COULDN'T BE KAYOED NO MATTER HOW HARD WE PUNCHED HIM !


AND SO THE RIDDLER RETURNS TO THE STATE PENITENTIARY WHERE ...
HOW ABOUT IT, ENIGMA ? WHY DO THE INMATES CALL THIS PRISON --FIDDLER'S HOTEL ?
GRUMBLE ! BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A "VILE INN" (VIOLIN) !
782
THE END

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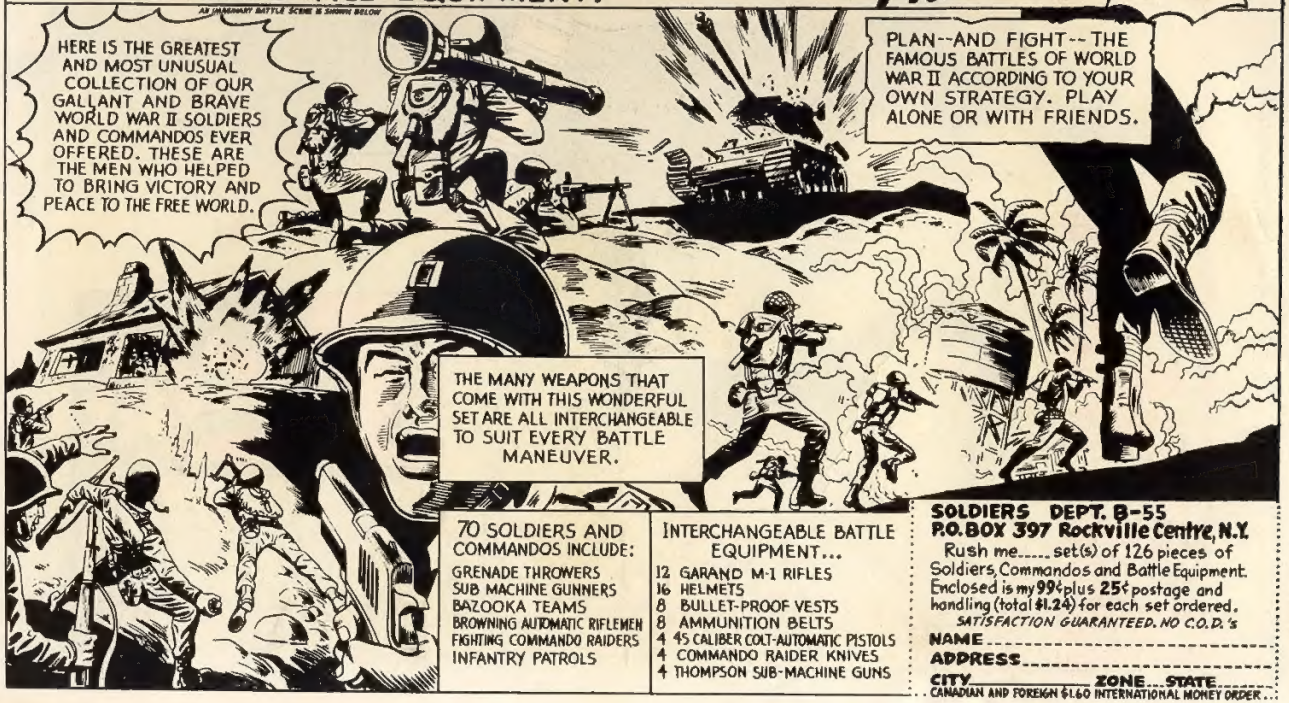
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